

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)



At the Hines Family Farm, water is supplied to the linear move through a recycled concrete ditch that draws water into the system. By using the existing concrete ditch, water efficiency is increased. A diesel motor with a generator is mounted on the main drive tower and supplies the power needed to operate the irrigation system. This 2,597-foot linear move is one of only two linear move systems that exists on the Western Slope. The other system is located in Meeker, CO.

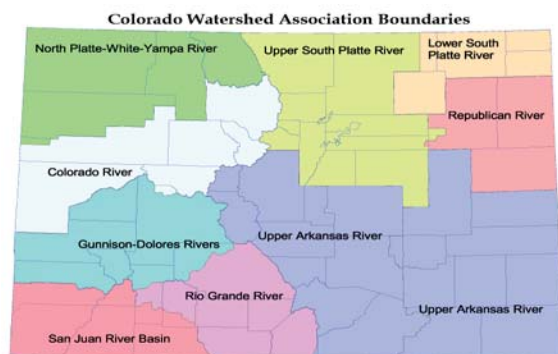
The Program

The **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)** is a voluntary conservation program that provides technical, financial, and educational assistance to farmers and ranchers. It's a tool that addresses significant natural resource concerns including water quality and quantity, soil quality, rangeland health, and drought while implementing conservation practices such as:

- ✓ Stockwater development
- ✓ Irrigation delivery and system improvements
- ✓ Tree and shrub plantings
- ✓ Grass seeding
- ✓ Related management practices such as prescribed grazing, irrigation water management, and wildlife habitat management

Funding Allocations

EQIP funds are distributed in Colorado's 10 watershed areas.



These watershed areas are identified at the local level and are reviewed and supported by the State Technical Committee, made up of conservation partners from various Federal, state, and local agencies, several agricultural organizations, and others.

In addition to the general EQIP process, Colorado also receives funds in three watersheds earmarked for **salinity control work.**

Colorado also receives funds through the Ground and Surface Water Conservation (GSWC) component of EQIP. These funds are available for water-conserving practices in the High Plains Aquifer, or that area generally known as the Ogallala Aquifer in Colorado.

The Assistance

EQIP activities are carried out according to an EQIP plan of operation developed in conjunction with the producer.

- ✓ Contracts for confined livestock feeding operations require the development and implementation of a comprehensive nutrient management plan
- ✓ **EQIP offers contracts with a minimum term of one year and a maximum term of ten years**
- ✓ **NRCS pays up to 75 percent** of the cost of certain conservation practices
- ✓ Total cost-share and incentive payments are limited to **\$450,000 per individual.**

FISCAL YEAR 2005 EQIP CONTRACT FUNDING*Totals by Watersheds*

Watershed	# Applications Received	# Applications Approved	\$ Applications Approved
Colorado River	165	79	\$2,367,559
Gunnison	260	124	\$4,727,252
Lower Arkansas	448	187	\$5,671,852
Lower South Platte	265	150	\$3,530,374
North Platte/Yampa	63	34	\$620,593
Republican	329	137	\$3,144,722
Rio Grande	306	152	\$2,351,518
San Juan	192	131	\$4,050,722
Upper Arkansas	154	101	\$1,659,096
Upper South Platte	160	104	\$2,079,456
TOTAL	2,342	1,199	\$30,203,144

Statewide Totals by Issue

Issue	# Applications Received	# Applications Approved	\$ Applications Approved
Water Quality/Quantity	671	330	\$8,082,047
Soil Erosion	141	95	\$1,534,309
Grasslands	489	252	\$4,806,086
Wildlife	89	29	\$251,414
Animal Waste	94	68	\$2,948,410
Riparian	20	11	\$404,135
Forest Management	103	84	\$797,113
Salinity	363	181	\$7,618,438
CNMP	24	22	\$69,104
AITF	5	3	\$119,329
Tribes	4	3	\$169,627
Acequias	53	22	\$75,207
GSWC	287	99	\$3,327,925
TOTAL	2,342	1,199	\$30,203,144